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9 November 1973

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- I. So far, there is no extensive reaction to the noon announcement of the six-point agreement.
- A. Israel, however, says that it will officially accept only after a special cabinet meeting this evening. The Israeli press is still claiming that lifting of the Bab al-Mandab blockade is part of the agreement.
- B. Cairo has not commented directly on the announcement, but a general feeling of relief and moderate optimism has been noted among the Egyptian public since the Secretary's visit. (Some intellectuals, however, are highly skeptical.)
- II. The most serious military incident since our meeting on Tuesday was the shoot-down of an Israeli reconnaissance plane this morning. It was apparently hit by a SAM in the vicinity of Ismailia.

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The Israelis have publicly announced the loss of "an aircraft," without details.

A. A reconnaissance flight near Ismailia neatly fits the pattern of recent air activity by the Israelis.

1. They have been concentrating on reconnaissance missions along the front lines, in order to keep close watch on Egyptian troop dispositions. Israel obviously does not intend to be taken by surprise again. Yesterday Tel Aviv claimed that Egyptian armored units on the west bank--with some 600 tanks--had moved closer to Israeli lines.

2. Furthermore, the most likely corridor for any Egyptian effort to relieve the 3rd Army by force would be through the Ismailia area.

B. The Egyptians clearly feared some Israeli retaliation for the shoot-down. Both fronts, however, have been calm since, although Israeli aircraft have been active over the canal and northern Israel.

C. Talk about renewing the war has tapered off considerably in the last 24 hours, and we see no new military moves to indicate that hostilities are about to resume.

III. The Soviet airlift remains in a virtual stand-down. We have detected no resupply flights since last Saturday, and none are scheduled for today. (There have been some UN-connected flights by Soviet aircraft, bringing in members of the peace-keeping force.) Since Tuesday's meeting two more ships have entered the sealift, making a total of 40, with some 93,000 tons of suspect military cargo.

IV. We continue to receive reports that large numbers of Soviet military personnel have been sent to Syria and Egypt.

A. In the most recent of these, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] told the US

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Interests Section that special security measures were taken at Cairo West airfield yesterday in connection with the arrival of some 2,000 Soviet troops and 250 tanks of the newest type.

B. It is hard to square this report with the

[redacted]  
absence of any detected resupply flights to Egypt.

C. On November 8, however, nine Soviet transports landed at Cairo International airport carrying Finnish peacekeeping forces and their equipment

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D. [redacted]

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1. The vehicle concentrations we have seen northeast of Damascus, where [redacted] [redacted] three Soviet armored units were being formed, are in an area where Syrian equipment was located prior to the war. We believe the equipment there now is Syrian.

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V. The Arab decision (taken on November 4) to cut back oil production by 25 percent will--if adhered to by all participants--affect consuming

countries even more than is apparent at first sight.

- A. By the end of 1973, it would cause exports to decrease some 5.8 million barrels per day--nearly 29 percent of the average production in September.
- B. But--in addition to this absolute decrease, we must add nearly 2 million barrels a day in anticipated increases in exports that will not be met. Hence, by the end of the year the real loss to consumers would be over 7.5 million barrels a day--or 35 percent below September levels.
- C. Iraq did not sign the November 4 agreement, however, and some other Arab countries--notably Libya and Algeria--probably will not fully implement it.